

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7370
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS

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TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR ROSENBLATT

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN FOR STATUS LNO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ROSENBLATT, PETER R.)
SUBJECT: STATUS OF TTPI - BRIEFINGS IN SUVA

1. AMBASSADOR ROSENBLATT'S 36 HOUR VISIT TO SUVA PROVIDED WEL-
COME OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRIEFINGS OF INTERESTED OFFICIALS ON
THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATION WITH THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. THESE OPPORTUNITIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE IN WHICH THE GUESTS INCLUDED
MINISTER OF LABOR, PRESIDENT OF FIJI EMPLOYEES CONSULTATIVE
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ASSOCIATION AND FIJI MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION. ALL THREE
HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MICRONESIA DURING MEETINGS WITH THE
AMBASSADOR.

B. MEETING WITH JIOJI KOTOBALAVU, PERMANET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH RESULTED IN HIS REPEATING THE COMMENT THAT
THE HILO AGREEMENT WAS A "TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT." JK ON HIS
OWN DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT THE AGREED UPON PRINCIPLES IN HILO

SUGGESTED THAT LEGALLY THE MICRONESIANS WOULD HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR FOREIGN RELATIONS THAN THE PEOPLE OF THE COOK ISLANDS. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION HE READILY ASSERTED THAT THE MICRONESIANS WILL QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORUM. THIS PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR AMBASSADOR ROSENBLATT AND CONDON TO STRESS THE MICRONESIAN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FORUM AND THE U.S. UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

C. LUNCH WITH FOUR HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR DEPUTIES (UK, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, PNG), FRENCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SPEC AND GOF CABINET SECRETARY. LUNCHEON TURNED INTO A SEMINAR WITH THE ENTIRE TIME DEVOTED TO MICRONESIA. AMBASSADOR ROSENBLATT'S PERFORMANCE AT THAT LUNCHEON WAS SIMPLY IMPRESSIVE. (NEW UK HIGHCOM DESCRIBED IT AS "MOST EXTRAORDINARY".) HIS MASTERY OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE TTPI PROBLEM WAS SO THOROUGH AS TO ENABLE HIM TO ANSWER WITH REMARKABLE PRECISION ALL THE SEARCHING QUESTIONS THAT WERE PUT TO HIM BY OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES SOME OF WHOM WERE FAIRLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND IN ANY EVENT PROFESSIONALLY ASTUTE AS TO QUICKLY IDENTIFY THE AREAS IN WHICH ONE COULD EXPECT PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES. ONLY THE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO AS HAD A FIVE YEAR EXPERIENCE IN THE UN EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE ACCEPTABILITY IN THE UN OF THE PROPOSED TTPI FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S. HE POINTEDLY RECALLED THAT THE U.S. TOGETHER WITH UK AND FRANCE HAS VOTED AGAINST THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH COOK ISLANDS. "PERHAPS THIS HELPED THEM GET IT APPROVED," ADDED HE.

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D. THE UK HIGH COM. AND THE FRENCH CHARGE URGED THAT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SIMILAR BRIEFING BE PROVIDED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS. THEY FOUND THE HILO BREAKTHROUGH EXTREMELY INTERESTING IN ITS IMPLICATIONS AND A PROMISING DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

E. MEETING WITH THE PM REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.

F. MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS AND RECORDING OF INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON FIJI RADIO EVENING OF 5 MAY.

G. MEETING IN THE CHANCERY WITH HEADS AND MEMBERS OF FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OFFICES IN SUVA: EEC, ILO, UNDP, WHO. ALL FOUND THIS TYPE OF BRIEFING UNIQUE AND EXTREMELY HELPFUL.

2. COMMENT: THE SUCCESS OF THE ROSENBLATT VISIT WHICH FOLLOWED SO CLOSELY THE EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE FISHERIES TEAM (BUSBY) POINTS UP THE EXTREMELY USEFUL PURPOSE SUCH VISITS CAN SERVE IF THEIR TIMING IS RIGHT AND ARE CONDUCTED COMPETENTLY BY PEOPLE DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED. WE SHOULD BE REMINDED HOWEVER THAT THE ROSENBLATT VISIT MIGHT NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IF HE HAD NOT BEEN INVITED BY THE YOUNG PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS THEIR MEETING IN AUSTRALIA. CONDON

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